

## Henry Middleton Rutledge to Andrew Jackson, March 21, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>HENRY MIDDLETON RUTLEDGE TO JACKSON.

Nashville, March 21, 1843.

. . . . I have read in the Globe of the 9th your letter, and those of Mr. Hennen, and Govr. Call. 1 They only repeat facts, which were familiar to every one, at the period, to which they refer, and I may say, for many years afterwards. No one then pretended to doubt, that you had to contend, not only against the enemy, but against a wide spread disaffection,

1 They are in the Globe of Mar. 7.

class=MsoNormal>0239 215 and that you had adopted, by declaring martial law, the only means which gave you any chance of success. No one doubted, that in submitting to the jurisdiction of the Court, you had submitted to an injustice, and that you were actuated, in so doing, by patriotick feelings, and a magnanimous deference, for the laws of your country: offering an example of moderation, which did honor to the character of an American General, and to the Institutions of our Republick. And I may add, that no one who was on the spot, entertained a doubt, that Hall acted throughout, from motives of personal resentment, and not from a sense of official dignity. I knew him well, and I believe that I do no injustice to his memory, to say, that he had neither elevation of character or a spark of American feeling in his bosom. How could he? He was already grown, when he arrived in Charleston, from St. Kitts, with his father, who, I believe had held some little office, in that Iland, under the Crown. Neither his habits, or associates, were very creditable, and his appointment to the Bench in Louisiana was a matter of surprise

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to everyone. He took with him as his Clerk, Simon McIntosh, the son of an old tory, a circumstance, not viewed with indifference, in those days. The interest which certain men affect to take, in Hall's character, must appear truly ridiculous, to those who knew him!

I should impose a long letter on you, if I indulged in saying all that I think, and feel, at reading the numerous calumnies that have been uttered in Congress in the discussion of the Bill, I will therefore close, etc, etc.,